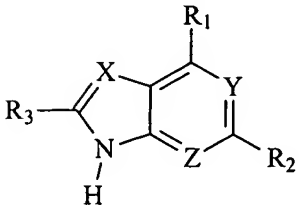
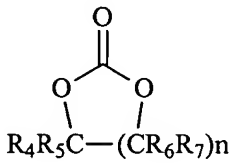
CLAIM AMENDMENT

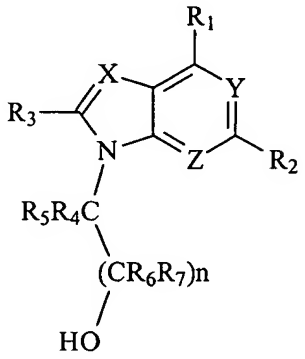
Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (original). A method of preparing a compound according to Structure 3 comprising:

reacting a heterocyclic base according to Structure 1 with a compound according to Structure 2 in dimethylacetamide to form a product according to Structure 3;







Structure 1 Structure 2 Structure 3;

wherein X, Y and Z are independently N or CR, with R being H, halogen, OH, NH_2, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or alkaryl;

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, and R_7 are independently H, halogen, OH, NH_2, $CO(NH_2)$, $CNH(NH_2)$, N_3, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or alkaryl;

wherein n is an integer between 1 and 3; and

isolating Structure 3 from the dimethylacetamide solvent using isopropanol or tert-butylmethylether.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein X, Y and Z are N, and wherein R_1 is NH_2, R_2 and R_3 are H.

3 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein R_4, R_5, R_6, and R_7 are H, and wherein n is 1.

4 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein Structure 3 is isolated from the dimethylacetamide solvent using isopropanol.

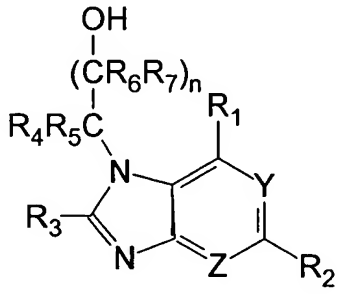
5 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reacting includes heating of the heterocyclic base according to Structure 1 and the compound according to Structure 2 to a temperature of no less than 150 centigrade.

6 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reacting includes heating of the heterocyclic base according to Structure 1 and the compound according to Structure 2 to a temperature of no less than 160 centigrade.

7 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reacting is performed in the presence of a basic catalyst.

8 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein the basic catalyst is NaOH.

9 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein X is N, and wherein the step of reacting the heterocyclic base according to Structure 1 with the compound according to Structure 2 further leads to an N7-alkylated byproduct according to Structure 4



Structure 4.

10 (original). The method of claim 9 wherein the step of reacting the heterocyclic base with the compound gives a total yield of the product and the N7-alkylated byproduct of at

least 82%, and wherein about 98% of the total yield is the product and wherein about 1% of the total yield is the N7-alkylated byproduct.

11 (original). The method of claim 9 wherein the step of reacting the heterocyclic base with the compound gives a total yield of the product and the N7-alkylated byproduct of at least 87%, and wherein about 97% of the total yield is the product and wherein about 1.1% of the total yield is the N7-alkylated byproduct.

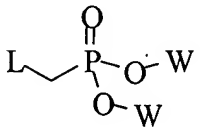
12 (original). The method of claim 9 wherein the step of reacting the heterocyclic base with the compound gives a total yield of the product and the N7-alkylated byproduct of at least 91%, and wherein about 97% of the total yield is the product and wherein about 1.3% of the total yield is the N7-alkylated byproduct.

13 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the heterocyclic base is present in the dimethylacetamide at a concentration of up to 220mM.

14 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the heterocyclic base is present in the dimethylacetamide at a concentration of up to 270mM.

15 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising reacting the product according to Structure 3 with a phosphonate.

16 (original). The method of claim 15 wherein the phosphonate has a structure according to Structure 5



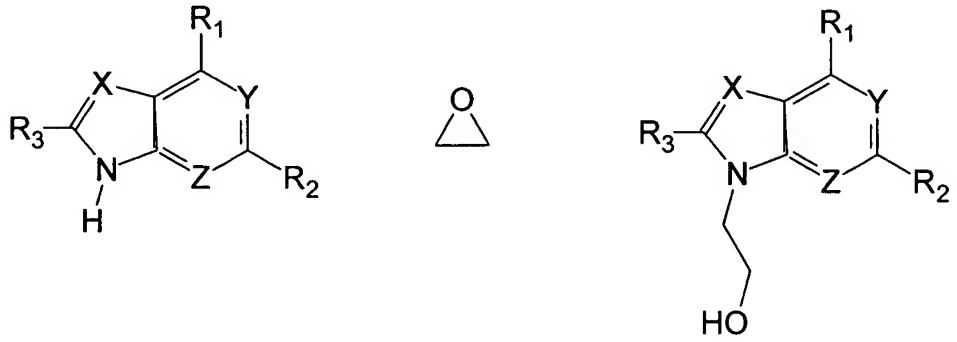
Structure 5

wherein L is a leaving group, and wherein W is a protecting group of the oxygen.

17 (original). The method of claim 16 wherein L is a tosyl group and wherein W is ethyl group.

18 (currently amended). A method of preparing a compound according to Structure 3 comprising:

reacting a heterocyclic base according to Structure 1 in ~~a solvent~~ dimethylacetamide with ethylene oxide to form a product according to Structure 3;



Structure 1 Structure 3

wherein X, Y and Z are independently N or CR, with R being H, halogen, OH, NH_2, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or alkaryl;

wherein R_1, R_2, and R_3 are independently H, halogen, OH, NH_2, $CO(NH_2)$, $CNH(NH_2)$, N_3, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or alkaryl; and

reacting the product according to Structure 3 with a phosphonate to obtain an antiviral nucleoside analog.

19 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein the solvent is dimethylacetamide.